

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|------------|--|-------------------|------------|
| Applicant: | Michael P. Whitman                               | Confirmation No.: | 7736       |
| Serial No: | 10/676,046                                       | Filed:            | 09/30/2003 |
| Examiner:  | John P. Leubecker                                | Group Art Unit:   | 3739       |
| For:       | <b>SELF-CONTAINED STERILIZED SURGICAL SYSTEM</b> |                   |            |

Commissioner For Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R §1.56, the information listed in the attached PTO-1449 form is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the European Search Report (3 pages), date of mailing February 23, 2011, for the corresponding European Application (EP10010190) is submitted herewith. Foreign cited references (DE1962643A1, EP0978251A1) are submitted herewith. Foreign references WO 93/15648A1 and WO01/62163A1 were previously cited. U.S. cited references (US-6447444B1, US-6019719A) are not provided pursuant to the waiver of this requirement under 37 C.F.R §1.98 for national applications filed after June 30, 2003.

It is respectfully requested that the reference(s) cited with Form PTO-1449 herewith be considered during Examination of the above-identified application and made of record therein. This submission is believed to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

The citation of the listed item(s) is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of prior art or that it constitutes prior art. The item(s) listed is/are submitted in good faith, but is/are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner, it will assist the Examiner in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

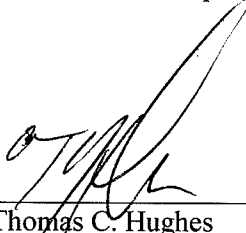
- ( ) This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application.
- ☐ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(i).
- ☐ Enclosed is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d)
- ☐ Please charge the petition fee of \$130.00 required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☐ As set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), to the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before either the mailing of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or the mailing of a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, and is accompanied by the \$240.00 fee as provided for in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☒ As set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (e) (1): That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ Please charge the \$240.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

4/15/11

  
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